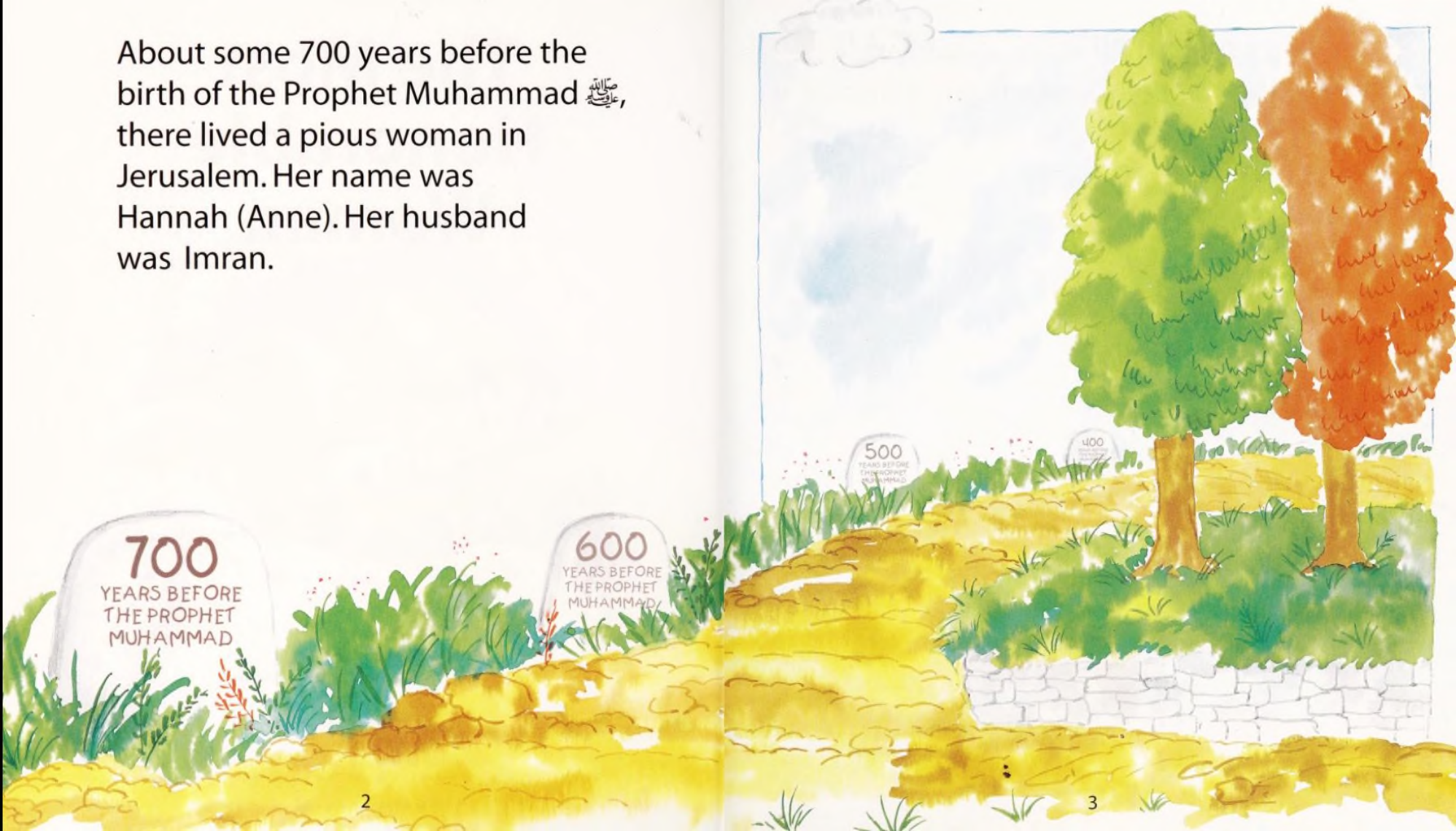


The Most Honorable Woman



About some 700 years before the birth of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, there lived a pious woman in Jerusalem. Her name was Hannah (Anne). Her husband was Imran.



Hannah prayed to Allah for a child and vowed that the child would spend her life serving Allah. Allah heard her prayers, and she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl who was named Maryam (Mary).



When she gave birth to Maryam, she felt sad and said: "O my Lord! I have given birth to a female."



For only a male child could do priestly work. It had always been so. But Allah graciously accepted the girl-child and caused her to grow up in purity.



When Maryam began serving Allah,
(as promised by her mother) the
priests so admired her deep respect
for Allah that every one of them felt it
would be an honor to be her
guardian.



So they drew lots using their
reed pens, to decide who the
guardian should be.



But each time the lots were drawn,
they proved to be in favor of the
Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام.



The Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام was an uncle of Maryam and the chief priest at the Temple in Jerusalem. In this way, she grew up in the loving care of Zakariyya عليه السلام.



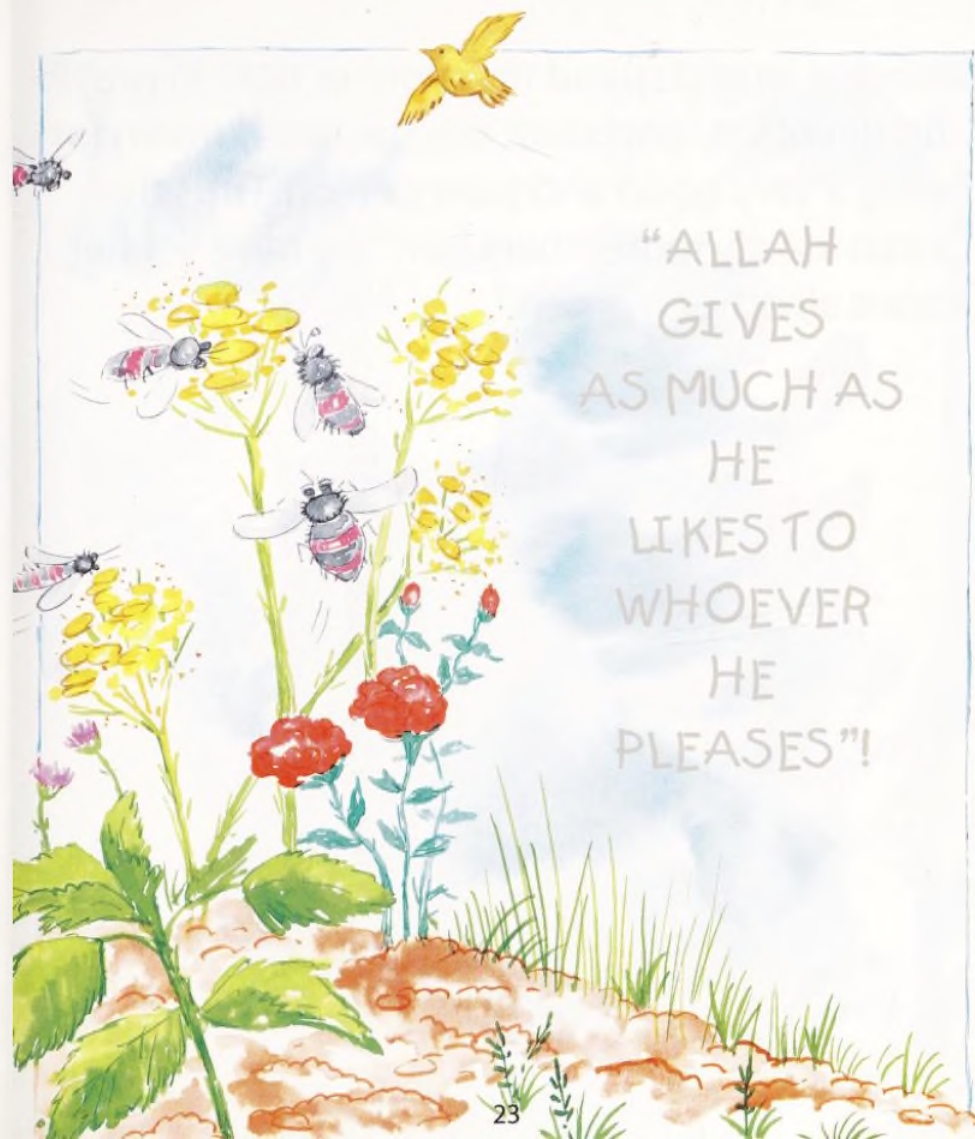
Whenever Zakariyya عليه السلام went to see Maryam praying in the *mihrab*, or prayer-niche, he was amazed to find fresh food, and he would ask her about it.



"O Maryam! Where is this food from?" "From Allah," she would answer. "Allah gives as much as He likes to whoever He pleases."



And so Maryam was raised to
be a pious and most devout
servant of Allah.



"ALLAH
GIVES
AS MUCH AS
HE
LIKES TO
WHOEVER
HE
PLEASES!"

Maryam would spend most of her time in prayer and devotion, and soon she became known for being a very good and pure person. Thus the Quran fondly remembers her: "We have set her above all other women."



The Most Honorable Woman

Quran Stories for Young Readers is a series of attractive picture books, designed to entertain very young children, while awakening in them an understanding about the message of the Quran.

This series will help children appreciate the best loved stories from the Quran, which will become a foundation for them for further reading.

As a pre-school reading course, it will help parents to explain and enrich the divine message by a simple and easy-to-understand method. With the help of this series, parents will find it extremely rewarding to share their knowledge with their loved ones.